

26915 E/14
CREASTYL SARL

A92 P27

CREA-29.09.80
FR 2-89-126

Art 12-0. 12-02a)

27.09.80-FR-016925 25.09.80 A474-07 08

Flower pot cover made from semi-rigid thermoformed sheet - ribbed
to enhance both stiffness and extensibility

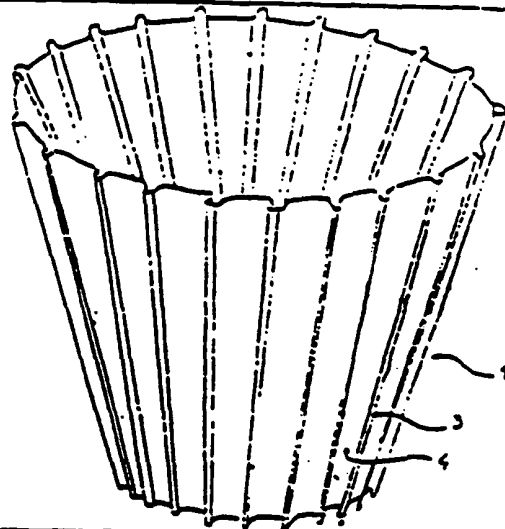
Flower pot cover is made from thin thermoformed sheet material with longitudinal undulating ribs to provide a combination of increased stiffness and circumferential extensibility to suit a range of pot sizes.

DETAILS

The cover is made from polyethylene or from impact-modified PVC or polystyrene, typically 0.2 mm thick.

EXAMPLE

A profile had ribs approx. 1 mm wide and 3.5 mm deep at intervals which splayed from 3.5 mm apart at the base of a cover to 10 mm at the mouth of the cover. (Opp 15).



FR 249-1

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE

PARIS

(11) N° de publication :

2 489 126

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A1

**DEMANDE
DE BREVET D'INVENTION**

(21)

N° 80 18955

(54) Cache perfectionné pour pots de fleurs.

(51) Classification internationale (Int. Cl. 7). A 47 G 7/08.

(22) Date de dépôt..... 29 août 1980.

(33) (32) (31) Priorité revendiquée :

(41) Date de la mise à la disposition du
public de la demande..... B.O.P.I. — « Listes » n° 9 du 5-3-1982.

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- 1 -

CACHE PERFECTIONNE POUR POTS DE FLEURS.

La présente invention concerne un cache perfectionné utilisable pour l'emballage, la présentation, la décoration, voire même la protection de pots de fleurs.

- 5 Les pots utilisés de nos jours pour la culture de fleurs ou plantes diverses, sont en général réalisés en terre cuite, sont relativement inesthétiques. Par ailleurs, ils présentent obligatoirement à leur partie inférieure un orifice par lequel l'eau d'arrosage peut s'écouler.
- 10 Pour ces raisons, lors de la vente, les fleuristes disposent autour du pot une manchette constituée par un tube à base de matière plissée (papier, film...) ladite manchette pouvant être utilisée pour des pots de diamètres différents du fait de l'extensibilité transversale qu'elle présente.
- 15 Si cette solution permet de résoudre le problème concernant l'esthétique extérieure du pot, il est impératif de disposer en dessous de celui-ci un récipient (coupelle) si on ne veut pas que l'eau d'arrosage se répande.

Une autre solution pour résoudre les problèmes précités
20 consiste à utiliser des cache-pots décoratifs dans lesquels les pots de fleurs proprement dits sont disposés. De tels cache-pots doivent être adaptés en fonction de chaque type de pots de fleurs.

Or, on a trouvé, et c'est ce qui fait l'objet de la présente invention, un nouveau type de cache, économique à réaliser, esthétique, qui, d'une part peut être utilisé indifféremment pour des pots de grosseurs différentes d'une manière
similaire aux manchettes plissées afin d'améliorer la présentation lors de la vente et, d'autre part peut être conservé
30 par l'utilisateur, sans qu'il soit nécessaire de disposer en dessous dudit pot une coupelle pour la récupération de l'eau.

D'une manière générale, l'invention concerne donc un cache-pot perfectionné du type comportant non seulement une paroi latérale entourant le pot sur sa hauteur mais également un fond
35 plat, plein, permettant d'assurer la récupération et le stockage de l'eau d'arrosage, le dit cache-pots étant caractérisé par le fait :

- qu'il est à base d'une feuille de matière thermofrangible relativement souple et mince,

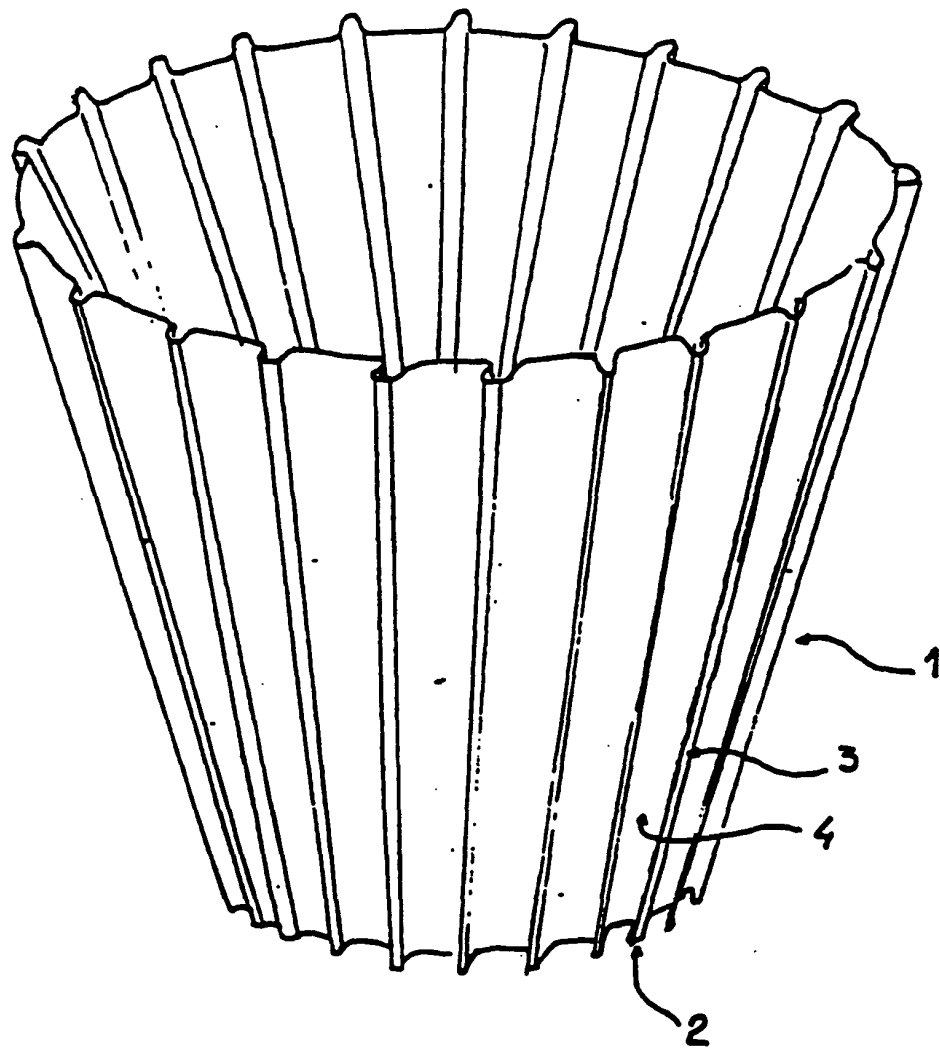
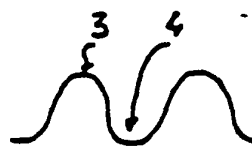
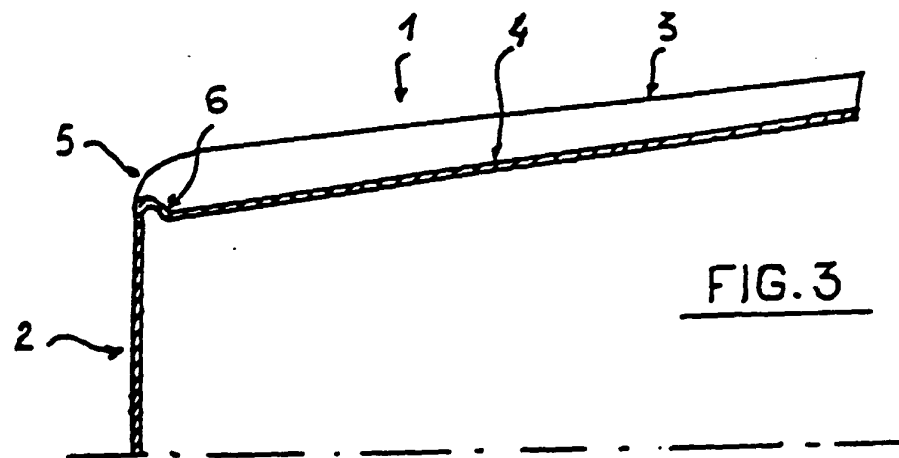
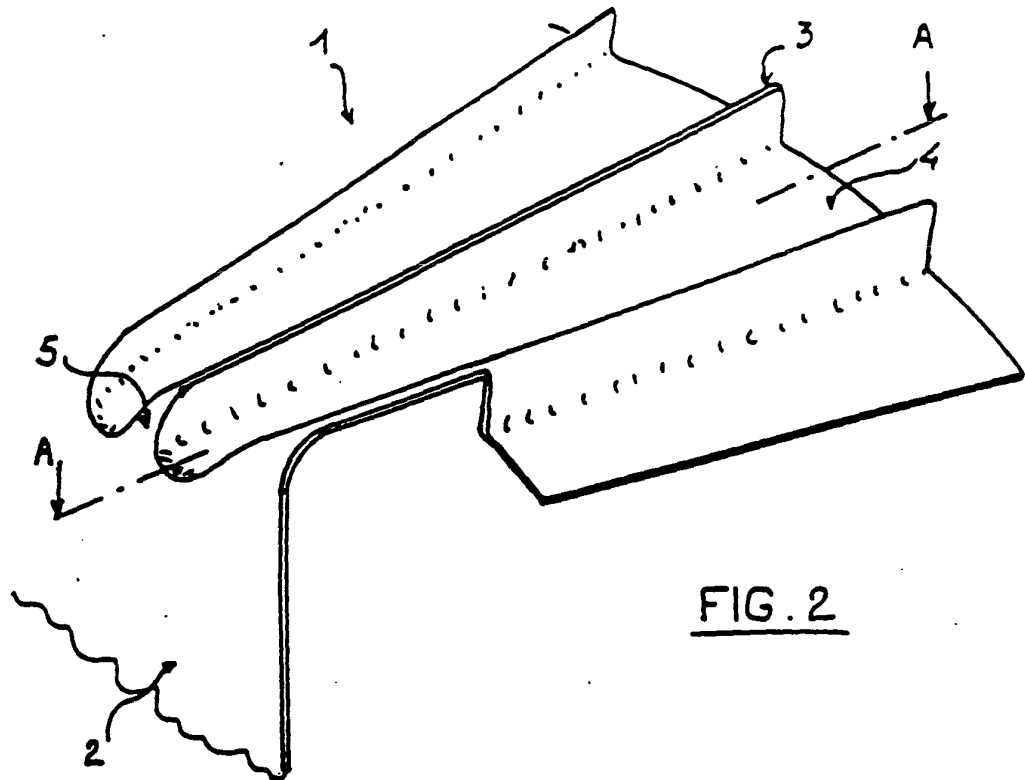
PLANCHE 1/2FIG.1

PLANCHE 2/2

FRENCH REPUBLIC	(11) Publication No.: (Use only to order copies)	2,489,126
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY		
PARIS		

A1	PATENT APPLICATION	
(21)	No. 80 18955	

(54) **Improved flowerpot holder.**

(51) International classification (Int. Cl.³): **A 47 G 7/08.**

(22) Date filed: August 29, 1980

(33) (32) (31) Priority claimed

(41) Date application laid open
to public inspection: **BOPI "Lists" No. 9 dated March 5, 1982.**

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IMPROVED FLOWERPOT HOLDER.

The present invention concerns an improved holder for packaging, presentation, decoration, and even protection of flowerpots.

The pots used nowadays for growing various flowers or plants are generally made of terracotta and are relatively unattractive. Moreover, of necessity, they have a hole in the bottom through which irrigation water may drain.

For these reasons, at the time of sale, florists place a sleeve made of a tube of a folded material (paper, plastic film...) around the pot, with the sleeve being capable of being used for pots having different diameters because of its transverse expandability.

Although this solution enables resolution of the problem concerning the external aesthetics of the pot, it is imperative to have under it a receptacle (a saucer) to avoid spilling the irrigation water.

Another solution to resolve the aforementioned problems consists in using decorative flowerpot holders in which the flowerpots per se are placed. Such flowerpot holders must be adapted depending on each type of flowerpot.

Now, a new type of holder, which is economical to produce and attractive, has been discovered, and it constitutes the object of this invention. On the one hand, it can be used for pots of all different sizes in a manner similar to the pleated sleeves to improve presentation at the time of sale; and, on the other, it can be retained by the user without having to place a saucer under the pot to collect the water.

In general, the invention thus concerns an improved flowerpot holder of the type having not only a lateral wall surrounding the pot over its height but also having a full, flat

bottom making it possible to ensure collection and holding of the irrigation water, with this flowerpot holder characterized by the fact:

- that is basically a relatively flexible, thin sheet of thermoformable material,
- that its lateral wall is composed of a succession of protruding and indented parts guaranteeing transverse expandability.

Such a pot is obtained by all the conventional processes of shaping thermoformable material and advantageously by thermoforming an antishock PVC or polystyrene sheet. It may have all appropriate shapes, cylinders, truncated cones, parallelepipeds, etc.

Preferably, the protruding and indented parts are disposed in the shape of a fan of which the contracted zone is near the bottom of the pot.

Moreover, the forming is accomplished such that the connecting zone between the bottom and the pleated lateral wall provides a certain rigidity to the whole, while at the same time allowing a variation of the dimensions of the pot over the entire height thereof.

The invention and the advantages it provides will be better understood by means of the exemplary embodiment presented in the following, by way of illustration but not restrictive, and which is depicted in the annexed drawings, wherein:

- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a flowerpot holder in the shape of a truncated cone produced according to the invention,
- Fig. 2 is a partial exploded view, showing in greater detail an embodiment of the protrusions and indentations of such a flowerpot holder,
- Fig. 3 is a cross-section along the axis AA of Fig. 2,
- Fig. 4, 5, and 6 illustrate schematically in cross-section various types of protrusions and indentations which can be used to produce such flowerpot holders.

Referring to the annexed figures, the flowerpot holder according to the invention has a lateral portion 1 intended to surround the pot over its entire height, as well as a flat, full bottom 2, guaranteeing collection and holding of the irrigation water.

Such a pot is obtained by thermoforming a flexible, relatively thin sheet of material, such as a sheet of antishock PVC or polystyrene, with the thermoforming performed in a mold whose shape is such that a lateral wall 1 composed of a succession of protrusions 3 and indentations 4 guaranteeing transverse expandability of the wall is produced.

These successive protruding and indented parts form undulations which may have any appropriate configuration, such as the shape of zigzag folds (Fig. 4), rounded folds (Fig. 5), or folds with a substantially flat base (Fig. 6).

In the exemplary embodiment depicted in Fig. 1, 2, and 3, the protruding portions 3 and indented portions 4 form a fan of which the contracted portion is located near the bottom 2 of the flower pot holder. In addition, the connecting zone 5 between the pleated lateral wall 1 and the bottom 2 is in the form of combination of curves as depicted schematically in Fig. 2 and 3, such that the indented portion 4 recedes slightly into the zone 5 connecting with the bottom 2. This makes it possible to also guarantee a certain expandability in the vicinity of the bottom 2, while the bottom retains constant dimensions.

In such an embodiment, it is possible, beginning with a relatively flexible starting material, to obtain a flowerpot holder which not only has high stability and good rigidity but is also capable of being adapted to pots of different diameters. The variations in dimensions of such a flowerpot holder will be readily adapted depending on the applications by taking advantage of the height of the protruding parts 3.

Flowerpot holders which could be adapted to any conventional truncated cone-shaped pots with diameters ranging from 12 to 18 cm have been produced by thermoforming in this manner.

Such flowerpot holders are obtained beginning with a polyethylene or PVC film with a thickness of 0.20 mm.

Before thermoforming, this sheet is introduced onto a heating platform which causes its softening, a platform heated to approximately 110°C in the case of the PVC and to approximately 90 to 100°C in the case of a polystyrene. The sheet thus softened is placed in a mold, in a conventional manner, so as to give it the configuration of a pot with protruding and indented portions as depicted in Fig. 1 and 2. In the present case, the protruding parts 3 have a width of about 1 mm, with the indented parts 4 ranging from 3.5 mm at the base to 10 mm at the top. Moreover, the height of the protruding parts is approximately 3.5 mm.

Such a flowerpot holder may be used for pots of all different dimensions. Of course, in the case of a short pot, the flowerpot holder may be cut at the top to adapt it.

Such a flowerpot holder can be mass-produced, starting with a relatively inexpensive material. It is very easy to use because of the expandability of its transverse wall, which not only facilitates placement of the pot, whose dimensions may, as already mentioned, be variable; it also facilitates the removal of the pot, if desired. It enables not only improving the presentation of flowerpots, but also provides protection and prevents drainage of water from the bottom.

Of course, the invention is not restricted to the embodiment described above, but it also covers all variants produced with the same concept.

CLAIMS

1. Improved flowerpot holder of the type comprising a lateral wall (1) surrounding the pot over its height and a full, flat bottom (2), providing for collection and storage of the irrigation water, characterized in

- that it is based on a sheet of relatively flexible, thin thermoformable material,
- that its lateral wall (1) is composed of a succession of protruding parts (3) and indented parts (4) providing it a certain transverse expandability.

2. Flowerpot holder according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is produced starting from a sheet of polyethylene.

3. Flowerpot holder according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is produced starting from a sheet of polystyrene.

4. Flowerpot holder according to one of Claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the protruding parts (3) and the indented parts (4) have the form of a fan whose contracted zone is disposed in the vicinity of the bottom (2) of the pot.

5. Flowerpot holder according to one of Claims 1 through 4, characterized in that it has the shape of a truncated cone.

6. Flowerpot holder according to one of Claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the connecting zone (5) between the lateral wall (1) and the bottom (2) is made up of a combination of curved surfaces giving, on the one hand, a certain rigidity to the base and, on the other, a certain expandability to the lateral wall in the zone near this base.

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